purchase even the slightly wet wheat in Meerut division during the unseasonal rain in the current year; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) No targets of procurement are fixed as wheat is procured against voluntary sale by farmers under Government's price support scheme. As on 24-8-1990, a quantity of 110.72 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured during the current rabi marketing season 1990-91, as compared to 90.04 lakh tonnes procured during 1989-90 rabi season.

(b) and (c) Specifications prescribed for procurement of wheat under price support scheme provide for acceptance of wheat stocks upto moisture level 12 per cent without any cut and upto 14 per cent with full value cut over 12 per cent.

On account of unseasonal rains in U.P., a relaxation in the wheat specifications was allowed in respect of lustre lost grains with no damage to kernel upto 20 per cent wihtout any price cut for procurement for Central Pool. A further relaxation for lustre lost grains, with no damage to kernel, upto 50 per cent without any price cut for procurement for the Central Pool from farmers was allowed in respect of districts Bulandshahar, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Meerut and Ghaziabad subject to the conditions that stocks procured under relaxed specifications be stacked separately and issued to the State Government of U.P. for distribution through public distribution system against Central allocation on priority bas's. These relaxations were operative till 31st July, 1990.

Schemes for the welfare of handicapped and blind persons

2696. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for the welfare of the handicapped and blind persons in the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the number of handicapped and blind in the country as on 30th June, 1989, State-wise, and what steps have been taken so far by Government for the welfare of such persons indicating the number thereof employed so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Yes, Sir. The details are given in Annexure-V. [*See* Appendix CLV Annexure No. 91].

(b) No information is available about the number of handicapped and blind in the country as on 30th June, 1989. However, according to survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1981, Category-wise, State-wise total number of estimated handicapped persons in the country are given in the statements at Annexures I to IV [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 91] The major schemes and programmes being implemented and jobs provided to the handicapped including the blind during the last 3 years is given in Annexure V. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 91]

Special Foodgrains Production Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2697. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special foodgrains production programme has been launched to give boost to agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh; and